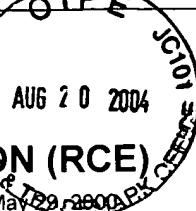


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**REQUEST
FOR
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)**

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000
 Provides for continued examination of a utility or plant
 Application filed on or after June 8, 1995.
 See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA)

AUG 20 2004



Application Number: 09/854,979
 Filing Date: May 14, 2001
 First Named Inventor: Lekuch et al.
 Group Art Unit: 2675
 Examiner Name: Nguyen
 Attorney Docket Number: YOR920000700US3
 Confirmation No.: 9085
 CUSTOMER NO.: 27623

RCE/2675

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

Note: 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 153 (d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50092 (August 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (March 20, 2000), Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

1. **Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114**

- a. _____ Previously submitted
- i. _____ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. 1.116 previously filed on _____ (any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
 - ii. _____ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____
 - iii. _____ Other _____
- b. XXXX Enclosed
- i. XXXXX Amendment/Reply
 - ii. _____ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
 - iii. _____ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) and PTO-1449
 - iv. _____ Other _____

2. **Miscellaneous**

- a. _____ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i) required)

b. _____ Other _____

3. **Fees** The RCE fee Under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. §1.114 when the RCE is filed.

- a. XXXX The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. **50-0513**.
- i. XXXXX RCE fee (\$770.00) required under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(e)
 - ii. _____ Extension of Time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17)
 - iii. _____ Other _____

b. _____ Check in the amount of \$ _____ enclosed

c. _____ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

August 18, 2004
 Date of Signature

Robert R. Hubbard

Robert R. Hubbard
 Attorney for Applicant(s)
 Ohlant, Greeley, Ruggiero & Perle, L.L.P.
 One Landmark Square, 10th Floor
 Stamford, Connecticut 06901-2682
 Registration No. 22,438
 Telephone: (203) 327-4500
 Telefax: (203) 327 6401
CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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Technology Center 2600

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on May 18, 2004.

Joanne A. Romaniello
 NAME

Joanne A. Romaniello
 SIGNATURE

8/18/04
 DATE